

# A History of Cork Hill, Montserrat

(to about 1900, derived from the official records at the Montserrat National Trust and other archives)

*The physical community of Cork Hill in Montserrat was abandoned in 1996 as a result of volcanic activity; some 20 years later there commenced a small gradual attempt to reclaim parts from the ravages of the volcanic ash, weather and overgrowth. This paper outlines the early history of the area.*

Cork Hill is a small prominence to the east of the larger Garibaldi Hill; it appears on the 1673 map of Montserrat, as 'Corck Hill', and Garibaldi as 'St Patricks Hill'.



From the original 1673 map in the John Carter Brown Library <sup>1</sup>

In 1680 Thomas Nugent is recorded as (Provost) Marshal in Montserrat, as a militia Captain in 1681, when he also purchased 9½ acres “by ye brink of the Great gutt .... for the consideration of 15,000 lbs of good muscovadoe sugar”,<sup>2</sup> and in 1683 he acquired 110 acres - Captain General Sir William Stapleton assigns him “a Certain Parcell of waste or King's Land... Situate lying and being on Cork Hill”. The transaction is signed off by “Thomas Nugent, Island Secretary”.<sup>3</sup> Acquiring also a few adjacent acres, the plantation now became known as “Nugents”.

Expressed and for as much as Captain Thomas Nugent of the Island of Montserrat hath repaired unto me and requested my Letters Patent for a certain Parcell of waste or Kings Land in the said Island of Montserrat  
**Know yll** therefore that I the said Captain Generall and Chiefe of Governour &c. in Pursuante of the Power and Authority to me given as aforesaid and for Severall good causes and considerations me therunto moving have given, granted, allotted, released, remised, and confirmed <sup>and by these presents</sup> in behalfe of our Sovereign Lord the King do give, grant, allot, release, remise and confirme and to the said aforesaid Capt Thomas Nugent his Heirs, Executors and Assignes a certain Parcell of waste of Kings Land in the said Island situate lying and being on Cork Hill in the Parish of St Anthony and boundeth N. W. with the Plantations

Image courtesy of Montserrat National Trust

<sup>1</sup> [View map online here](#)

<sup>2</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds ROD\_MNI\_1770-73\_191 (A copy of original 1681 deed)

<sup>3</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds ROD\_MNI\_1770-73\_188 (A copy of original 1683 deed)







In 1741 Delvin leased (probably this was a further lease, he was a typical absentee owner) the plantation to Nicholas Dongan (who owned Freemans Plantation - Olveston and Limekiln Bay area) for 16 years at £200 sterling per annum; a steep sum but the sugar “boom” was approaching its height. On Dongan’s death in 1746 the lease, including 44 slaves, passed to John Skerrett (married to Mary, a daughter of Dongan), but now at £450 sterling per annum, and then in 1750 to Peter Skerrett on a 21 year lease (confirmed by John Nugent in 1756).<sup>6</sup> Outliving his son, the Earl of Westmeath took ownership of the plantation in 1752; after his death in 1754 he bequeaths it to his great-nephew John Nugent of Dysert in Ireland, who later became Lt.Governor of Antigua then Lt.Governor of Tortola. By 1772 George Skerrett was the lessee.<sup>7</sup>

#### List of 73 Enslaved Persons on Delvins Plantation in 1772

(Image courtesy of Montserrat National Trust)

*The Schedule or Inventory mentioned in the foregoing Indenture and to which the same refers.*

Deira	Quao	George	Matty	Lubinna	Quamina	Windsor
500.						
Ho Will	Jack Boy	Cacao	Betty Gave	Leubba	Quashy	Marianne
Joe	Robert	Betty Boy	Phiba	Mumba	Quashy	Grace
Will Kane	Tom	Litty	Pudy	Nelly	Buffy	Judy
Long Will	Peter	Mary	Franky	Antigua/Betty Tom		Calia
Buffy	Morat	Wiolet	Nanny Bundy	Little Betty	Quao	Maria
Spring	Andrew	Old Yaba	Longo Maria	Littice	Jack White	bring Twenty
Apong	Marcus	Little Yaba	Longo Grace	Susanna	Prissy	Three in
(Dublin)	Polydore	Phillis	Little Quashiba	Dennis	Nelly	Number
Cato	Francois	Doll	Calia	London	Tabitha	
Alia	Neptune	Quao	Monkey	Simon	Maria	

At which time a survey of “Cork Hill now Delvins” plantation was commissioned by John Nugent.<sup>8</sup>

Taking my first station near a Loblolly tree by the side of the Common Path on Cork Hill running NE 82°.00 to the mouth of the little Gutt on the side of the River and from thence SW 82°.00 Fifty Chains and Eighty four links {about 1120 yards or 1020 metres} unto the Loblolly tree on the Center line of Bransbys and the River Plantation, from thence SE as the Gutt giveth unto a Figg Tree planted by the side of Bransbys Gutt, from thence NE as the said Gutt giveth unto a large Figg Tree in the Common path being the Center line of the Land formerly in the Possession of Captain Peter Cave and Lieutenant Thomas Lee but now the Property of John Ravel Frye Esq., from thence NE as the Barracado\* gives unto a white Cedar tree on the Brink of the River, from thence NW as the River side giveth unto the first mentioned little Gutt by the side of the River...and I do report the said Estate to contain by Admeasurement in all One Hundred fifty and two acres, One Rood and Twelve Perches.

26th day of September 1772

Thomas Medley D'Arcy Dawes - Sworn Surveyor

\* barricade, presumably a militia defence to protect the road to Plymouth from the north

<sup>6</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds ROD\_MNI\_1772\_048, ROD\_MNI\_1755-57\_0152

<sup>7</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds ROD\_MNI\_1770-73\_177

<sup>8</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds ROD\_MNI\_1772\_055



Detail from 1775 painting of Plymouth, showing Garibaldi and Cork hills to the north

(online [here](#))

In 1784 John Nugent purchased about 90 enslaved persons off Ellis Iles' "Road" plantation from mortgage holder Richard Neave for £6,865 4s local currency.<sup>9</sup> (Local currency was about 15% below British value)

In 1812 he wills the plantation, by now mostly known as Delvins, to his great-nephew Captain, later Admiral, Sir John Talbot. After the abolition of slavery in 1834, Talbot received compensation of £1,599 13s 1d for 100 enslaved persons on Delvins plantation<sup>10</sup> (perhaps about £1.5 million in 2019 capital value terms, or £15,000 per person<sup>11</sup>).

He in turn leaves it to his son on his death in 1851. Its sale to Patrick Burns in 1856 brought 170 years of family ownership to a close; it also signalled the start of the Delvins estate as part of a new community in the Cork Hill area.

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### 1856 - 1908 After the Nugents and Talbots

Patrick Burns was a merchant in the records, first noted in 1844.<sup>12</sup> In 1845 he was elected an Assembly member for Plymouth Montserrat, his occupation "Notary Public".<sup>13</sup> He was Provost Marshal, responsible for enforcing court orders including the sale of property to pay off debts, between 1851 and 1853. In May 1856 he bought Delvins estate, recorded as 191 acres in size, for £500 sterling.<sup>14</sup> The description of the boundaries is *"to the east by the high road and the Old Road River and Fry's Estate, to the north by Balham's Estate and Isle's Estate, to the west by Bransby's Estate and Isle's Estate, to the south by Richmond Estate and by Bransby's estate"*; Balham estate would soon after be also known as The Valley estate (then later joined with Isle's as Balham again), Bransby's joined with Delvin's as Elberton, and the river is now known as Belham River.

Burns and his wife Margaret Millicent immediately set about selling small plots of land from the estate, the first recorded being to Charles Brownbill and family, 1 acre to the east of the high road, adjoining Fry's, for £13 10s local currency (which fluctuated against sterling, but about £10). In fact, the sale was to trustees on behalf of the Brownbills. This legal device, normally associated with large value purchases and transfers, became a very common practice in 19th century Montserrat - the main benefit was security as

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<sup>9</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds REGDEEDS\_1783\_374 (enslaved names barely legible)

<sup>10</sup> [The Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slave-ownership : Delvins, Montserrat](#)

<sup>11</sup> [£20m \(the total compensation paid to slaveowners\) capital value in 1834 equivalent to about £17 billion now](#)  
Various ways of calculating modern currency equivalents are discussed and calculable [here](#)

<sup>12</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds REGDEEDS\_1844-47\_138

<sup>13</sup> Montserrat Blue Book 1845 p.70

<sup>14</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds ROD\_MNI\_1853\_205

the beneficiary could not have “their” home and land taken by creditors, but nor could they sell without trustee consent; occasionally it was a wife’s name only with husband explicitly excluded. Mostly the trust deed specified that the property was to be inherited by the children as “tenants in common” after the death of the parents, meaning each child owned an equal independent share, presumably resulting often in many dwellings being built close to each other with family ties between the occupants. The instigators of this form of property ownership seem to have been members of the Methodist church, some of whom were working as civil servants and writing clerks, were often the trustees (in the Brownbills’ case it was Thomas and Henry Dyett), and it must be supposed that they were trusted literally by the people sheltering behind the legal construct. It would be interesting to find out which of the beneficiaries were Methodists.<sup>15</sup>

The Burns sold in the next few months the following small lots (recorded) from Delvins estate land:<sup>16</sup>

Beneficiary	Trustees	Acreage	Price	Neighbourhood
John Scipio, labourer (& ?)	Henry Nibbs Trott, merchant & William Harper, tailor	4	£33 15s	? (Page missing) but includes William Bramble, see below
George Benjamin Davis, carpenter, wife Maria & children	Richard Henry Blake, writing clerk & George Barzey Wyke, carpenter	1	£6	Adjoining Davis’ own land to north, high roads to E, S, W
James Mason, wife Octavia & children	Thomas Dyett & Henry Dyett	1.5	£24 5s	High road to N & W, Frye’s estate to east
George Harper, carpenter, wife Lucretia & children	James Meade & Richard Henry Blake, writing clerk	3	£18 sterling	By Fryes estate and Delvins Pond
William Bramble, labourer, wife Catherine & any future children	George Barzey Wyke, carpenter	8	£135	By John Scipio, and Fry’s estate to east. Includes Delvins estate house
Nathaniel Frith, labourer, wife Elizabeth & children	Edward D Audain, stonemason & David S Watson, painter	3	£6 sterling	“ Fryes gut ” to south
Patience Linser (?Lindesey), widow, & children	George Harper, carpenter & Richard Henry Blake, writing clerk	2	£12 sterling	By Belhams estate & river, John Mulcare, Yabba Weeks & high road
John Mulcare, mason, wife Ann & children	Richard Henry Blake, writing clerk	2	£12 sterling	By Patience Lindser (?Lindsey), Pierre Pontine, Fryes estate, and the high road
Yabba Weeks & children	Richard Henry Blake, writing clerk & George Barzey Wyke	2	£12 sterling	By Patience Linser (?Lindsey) and George Harper

<sup>15</sup> Many 19th century Methodist baptismal and a few marriage records digitised at the Montserrat National Trust

<sup>16</sup> All transactions are searchable in Register of Deeds summary [here](#) , showing original document page reference  
Note that in the original documents, the children are often named; space precludes their inclusion here.



Thomas Dyett, labourer, wife Grace & children	George Francis, planter	2.5	£15 sterling	By Timothy O'Garra & Cudjoe Lynch.
Pierre Pontine, planter	None	2	£12 sterling	By James Mason and John Mulcare. ( Pontine = Ponteen?)

However on the Burns' selling Delvins to Joseph Sturge just 18 months later in October 1857,<sup>17</sup> there are recorded other small sales, or perhaps reservations for future sale, with no detail beyond acreage and owner; note that the beneficiaries above are listed in this sale document as if owners. In all some 52 acres of the 191 had been sold off, including 24 to the adjoining Grove estate. Not listed above were:-  
2 acres John Lynch - 1.5 acres each Anthony Lynch, James Dyett - 1 acre each Amelia John, John or James Allers, John Isles, John Hickson, Susannah Dyer, Hester Blake, Peter Paltein, Peter Dyer, Joseph Hickson - 0.5 acre each Mary Allen, Joseph Jeffers

The sale price of £150 sterling, from £500 the previous year, indicates the sale of the small lots at a going rate; the priced sales combined with a guess that the unpriced sales were similar pro rata does not suggest any great, or even any, profit. What the Burns' motives were for purchasing Delvins and selling small lots is unknown and probably unknowable; but by August 1860 and thereafter he is recorded as "of Antigua".

Joseph Sturge had bought Bransbys estate adjacent and to the west of Delvins at the same time (from a different owner), conjoined them and renamed the 700 acres as Elberton, after his native village in Gloucestershire, England. Delvins estate works had been dismantled in 1856<sup>18</sup>, perhaps after damage in the severe earthquake of 1843 and subsequent neglect (there is no record of a Government Loan for repairs as for many other properties). Sturge died in May 1859 in England, and in August 1860 his widow and other family members, as devisees and executors of his will, appointed Francis Burke of Woodlands estate (formerly Lawyers estate), a business partner of Sturge and his attorney managing Elberton, to sell off small lots of that estate, authorising up to 50 acres in total.<sup>19</sup> The sales commenced in March 1863, and over the next 10 years the following are recorded:<sup>20</sup>

Beneficiary/ Owner	Trustee(s)	Acreage	Price	Neighbourhood
Margaret Ryley, widow, & children	George Francis, planter	1	£6 sterling	By Thomas White to E, Henry Fenton to S, public road or pathway to N. 1863
Rosannah Ryley spinster & her children by Francis	George Francis, planter	1	£6 sterling	By Thomas White to E, Henry Fenton to S, public road or pathway to N. 1863
John Daly, labourer (Sturge employee), wife Margaret & children	Michael Greenaway, stonemason & Matthew Edwards, tailor	2.5	£6 sterling	By river to N, Lismore Lynch to W, Benjamin Harper, George Harper, William Sidney & Henry Roach to S, Fries estate to E. Part of "Delvins Estate Garden". 1863

<sup>17</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds ROD\_MNI\_1853\_263

<sup>18</sup> Reports Exhibiting the Past and Present State of Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions ("Blue Books") 1856 p.99 where it is referred to as Nugent's.

<sup>19</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds ROD\_MNI\_1853\_359

<sup>20</sup> All transactions are searchable in Register of Deeds summary [here](#), showing original document page reference. Note that in the original documents, the children are often named; space precludes their inclusion here.

Beneficiary/ Owner	Trustee(s)	Acreage	Price	Neighbourhood
Joseph Aymer, labourer, wife Charlotte & children	Michael Greenaway, stonemason & Matthew Edwards, tailor	1.5	£9 sterling	By Octavia Neal to E & N, Edward Smith to W, Jacob Semper & Robert Browne to S. 1863
Edward Smith, labourer, wife Margaret & children	William H Palmer, cabinetmaker & Michael Greenaway, mason	2	£12 sterling	By Edward Smith's own to E, "Valley estate and a white cedar tree" to W, Joseph ?O'Garra to N, Joseph Allen "and a loblolly tree" to S. 1863
John Shoy, labourer, wife Sabina & children	John Joseph Buffong, freeholder, & JT Allen, Treasury Officer	1	£6 sterling	By William Bramble to S & E, by "a range dividing it from Elberton estate" to W. 1864
Edward Fergus, labourer, wife Mary & children	Richard Henry Blake & Nathaniel Frith	1.25	£7 10s sterling	By Ellis Stone and William Bramble to N, Nathaniel Frith to S, William Bramble to E, Thomas White to W 1865
William Bramble, planter	None	4	£24 sterling	By Ellis Stone, Cuffee Fergus and Nathaniel Frith to S, William Bramble's own and Jack Shoy to N, Elberton estate to W 1866
John Seaton, formerly of St Kitts	None	3.33	£20 sterling	By William Martineau to N, Elizabeth Lynch to E, John O'Brien to S, "the Gut" to W. 1868
Joseph Wyke, labourer	None	1	£7 sterling	By Mary Ann Governor to E, Ophelia Edwards to W, Benjamin O'Brien to W, Phillis Winspear & high road to S. (Declared as part of Elberton rather than Delvins) 1872
Elizabeth Allen, spinster	None	1 acre, 2 roods & 20 poles	£7 12s 6d sterling	By Patrick Corbett to N, Adam Gordon to S, Benjamin O'Brien to E, Elberton estate to W 1873

There are no more small lot sales recorded in the Registry volumes at the Montserrat National Trust, but in their Sturge Collection there are documents about such sales during the period 1897 - 1908 on the north side of the old Ffryes estate, incorporated with The Grove estate, which the Montserrat Company had acquired, along with Richmond and Grove estates, in 1861 from the Loan Commissioners on default of payments by the Shiell family owners.<sup>21</sup> The company later also acquired Weeks estate in 1886 from the Loan Commissioners.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds REGDEEDS\_1866-74\_202

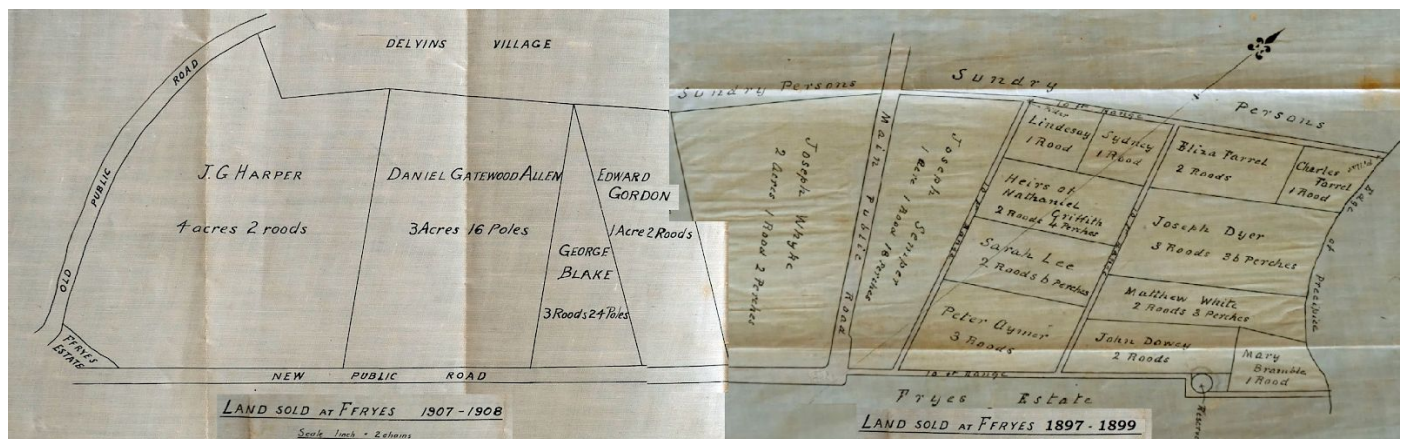
<sup>22</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds REGDEEDS\_1874-92\_351

## Land sales at north Fries during the period 1897 - 1908

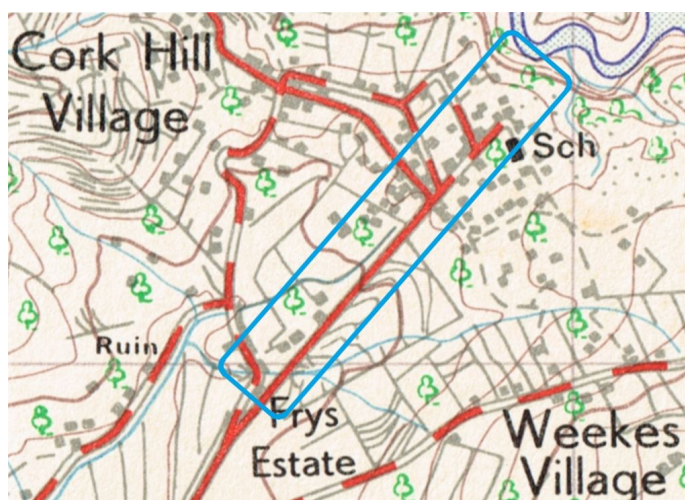
Acreage of plots sold at Grove.		ac	rd	po	sq yds
1.	Joseph Semper	1	1	18	✓
2.	Matthew White		2	3	✓
3.	Elija Farrell		2	.	✓
4.	Joseph Wyke	2	1	2	✓
5.	John Lindsay		1	.	✓
6.	Matthew Griffith		2	4	✓
7.	Mary Bramble		1	.	✓
8.	Charles Collins Sidney		1	.	✓
9.	Peter Rymer		3	.	✓
10.	William Francis Graham		1	.	✓
11.	Mary P. Dyer		3	36	✓
12.	John Doway		2	2	✓
13.	Govt of Montserrat		6	29½	(24000)
14.	Philip des Vaux Lee		2	6	✓
15.	Edward T. Gordon	1	2	.	✓
16.	John L. Blake		3	24	✓
17.	Catherine E. B. Allen & Margery A. Allen	3	.	19	✓
18.	John G. Harper	4	2	.	✓
19.	Samuel D. Bayley		5	4	✓
		19	-	6	3½

Image courtesy of Montserrat National Trust

Helpfully, there are two sketches summarising the sales, which are reproduced conjoined below

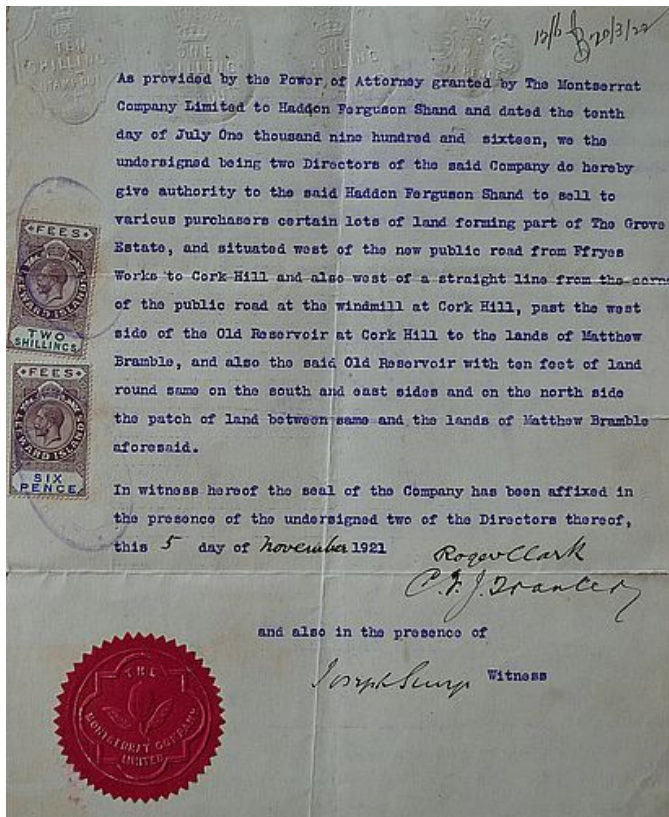


Composite image, courtesy of Montserrat National Trust



Plots area above delineated by blue rectangle at left





This document in the Sturge collection suggests that the paperwork for the land sales 1897 - 1908 were not formally and legally authorised and had to be so done retrospectively. The plots referred to as sold in the next (later dated) document are the ones above, already recorded in the Register of Deeds.

Image courtesy of Montserrat National Trust

## Cork Hill village to the north

The plantation just south of The Waterwork and the Old Road (now Belham) river had been known variously over the years as The River, The Valley, and Balhams - and possibly Lynchs and/or Laffoons. In October 1848 William Shiell<sup>23</sup> (a son of Queely Shiell, the largest slaveowner on Montserrat in 1834<sup>24</sup>) sold trustees Henry William Loving and Thomas Weeks, planter, a plot of 3 acres of Balhams for £67 10s local currency for the benefit of Joseph Daly, labourer, wife Eleanor and children, "west of Cork Hill river, north of Bashant gut"; and a plot of 1.5 acres for £33 15s local currency for the benefit of James Neale, labourer, wife Octavia and children, north of Sir John Talbot (Delvins), west of the High Road and Bashant gut".<sup>25</sup>

Henry Loving, formerly editor of The Weekly Register newspaper in Antigua, openly pro-abolition,<sup>26</sup> was Island Colonial Secretary and a Methodist elder, and had been acting as a trustee for small land sales from a few sympathetic estate owners since the end of post-Emancipation Apprenticeship in 1838. He had helped negotiate in 1840 the purchase of an acre of land in Salem from the Kirwans at Waterwork estate to build the Methodist church. Son Henry William, "printer and writing clerk" carried on the family role of trusteeship; he is described as "the late H.W. Loving" by April 1855.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Described by the Administrator of Montserrat Edward Dacres Baynes as "possibly the evil genius of the colony"

<sup>24</sup> [The Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slave-ownership : Queely Shiell](#)

<sup>25</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds ROD\_MNI\_1844\_160 and ROD\_MNI\_1844\_162

<sup>26</sup> In 1831, Henry Loving a "free coloured", was publicly horsewhipped by a white man who took offence at something which had appeared in The Weekly Register. More about Loving and his earlier Antiguan activism [here](#)

<sup>27</sup> ROD\_MNI\_1853\_140

In July 1850 a bankrupt Shiell's many properties were auctioned off by court order; his half-share of Balhams' 250 acres went to John Rawlins Semper, a Montserratian lawyer, for £68, but with a £600 sterling Government Loan still outstanding against it - he also acquired Harris estate at the same auction, and Bethels and Tuitts a few months later from the estate of Queely Shiell, again by court ordered auction. Semper bought out Henry Furlonge's half of Balhams in 1852 for £112 local currency (the eastern boundary is described as "Daly's gut" <sup>28</sup>), then sold out to Richard Piper in March 1853 for £100 sterling. <sup>29</sup> Forty years later in 1893, shortly before his death, Piper sells it to the Sturges' Montserrat Company for £400 sterling, <sup>30</sup> but several small lots from the estate had been sold off during this time.

Richard Piper in the register of 1842 is described as a master mariner from Plymouth and in 1848 as a shipwright <sup>31</sup>, and later as merchant and planter. He was also according to the Head of Customs in 1842 <sup>32</sup> a successful smuggler - with the goods sold on island by Susan Duberry, mother of Ann and Frances Piper (relationship to Richard unknown), and Nancy Allen, Richard's mother, both described as "hucksters" (persons who sell small items door-to-door or from a stall). Note, the will of Ann Allen, proved in 1870, describes Richard Piper as her son and executor; the Slave Register of 1831 shows her as named as both Nancy and Ann, registering a single boy aged two on behalf of her daughter, received from the father. Between them (Richard and Ann) they acquire many estates besides Balhams, including Little Bay, Brades, Friths, Virgin Island, Germans Bay and Galways, in every case selling off small plots to local people living on them.

In 1855 he sold 3 acres of Balhams "by Delvins" to Priscilla Bunting; in 1856 2 acres, south of the Old Road leading from the Old Mill (see photo below) to Isles Bay, to Titus White and William Tuitt, labourers, in trust for Lucy White, wife of Michael White, labourer, and children, for £12 sterling

**The Old Mill and ford over the Old Road (Belham) River at Balhams estate, 1890s**



**From the Sturge Collection. Image courtesy of the Montserrat National Trust**

<sup>28</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds ROD\_MNI\_1866\_031

<sup>29</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds ROD\_MNI\_1853\_057

<sup>30</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds MNI\_ROD\_1892\_011

<sup>31</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Records of Deeds ROD\_MNI\_1844\_102

<sup>32</sup> Montserrat National Trust - Customs Office Correspondence 1842-45 MPL\_82\_33\_044



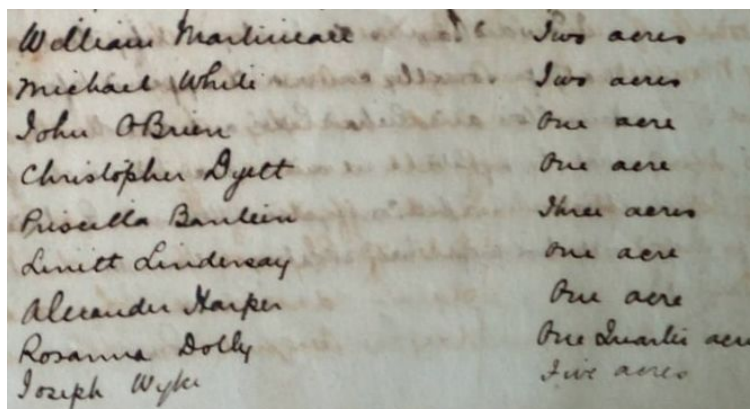
in 1858 2 acres north of the high road and west of Joseph Daly, to Henry William Dyett and William Dardis Furlonge, tailors, in trust for Alexander Harper, labourer, wife Susannah and children, for £27 local currency;

In 1860 2 acres west of Michael White's land and north of the gut, to William Martino (Martineau) for £12 sterling ; and also 1 acre adjacent to Martino to William Lee, planter, in trust for Lizette Lindesay and children, for £13 10s.

In 1867 1 acre east of land of Joseph Daly deceased and west of "Horse Hole" (probably Hogs Hole on Cork Hill river), to Joseph B Barzey, writing clerk, and Benjamin Davis, carpenter, in trust for Christopher Dyett, labourer, wife Mary Ann and children, for £6

In 1886 5 acres to Joseph Wyke, planter, "Cork Hill Piece", by Octavia Neal, for £30

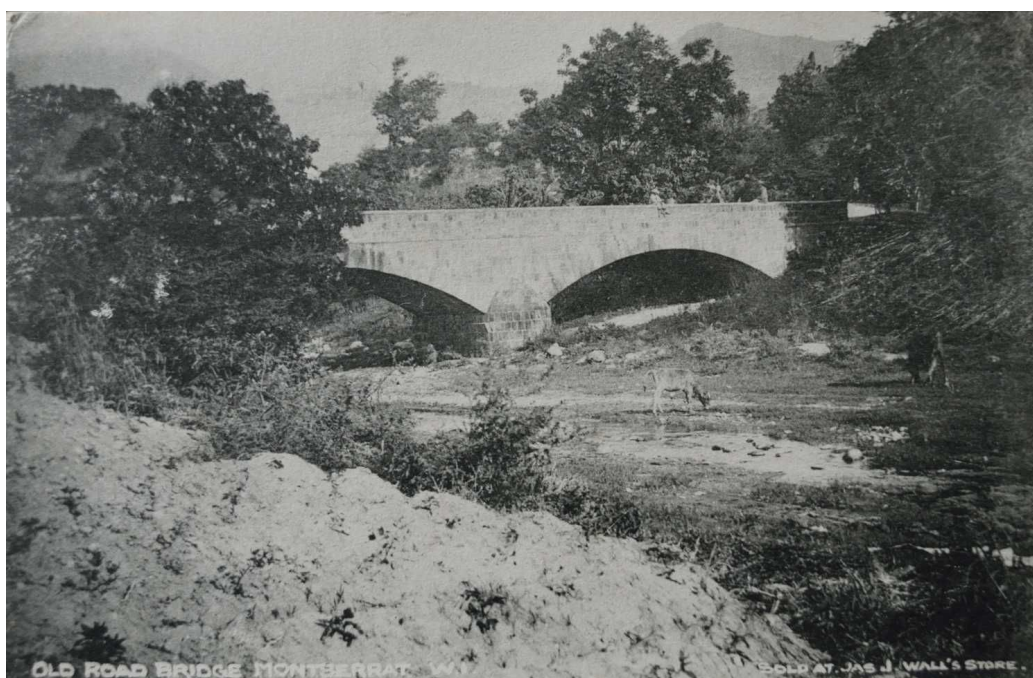
In 1893 Piper sold most of the estate to The Montserrat Company, noting that he had previously sold off the below plots.



William Martineau	Two acres
Michael White	Two acres
John O'Brien	One acre
Christopher Dyett	One acre
Priscilla Bantlin	Three acres
Lizette Lindesay	One acre
Alexander Harper	One acre
Rosanna Dolly	One quarter acre
Joseph Wyke	Two acres

Image courtesy of the Montserrat National Trust

Also excluded from the sale was all land north of Old Road River, and north of the high road from Cork Hill to the new bridge at Balhams works. Thus in his will of 1893 proved in 1895 <sup>33</sup> he was to leave what developed later as northern Cork Hill village to Charles William Piper, Mary O'Garra and Martha Piper, not described as his children but probably relatives. His Trott relatives as well as these above inherited his numerous houses in Plymouth and several estates in the south west of the island.



<sup>33</sup> MNI\_ROD\_1892\_067





Detail from 1832 map of Montserrat (online [here](#)) Note Garibaldi Hill and Balhams are named “Bethany “

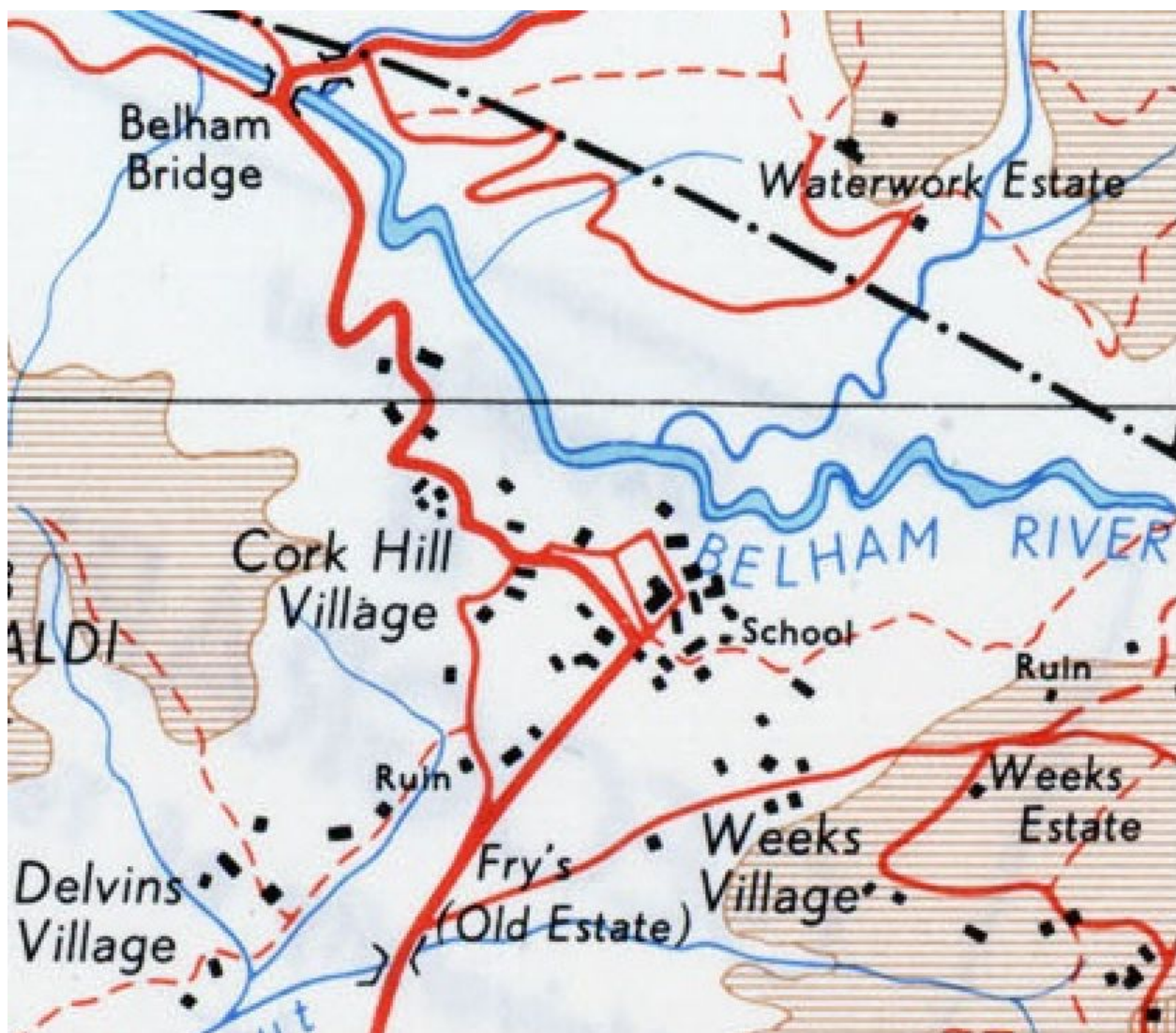


Detail from 1867 map of Montserrat (copies held in British National Archives & British Library)



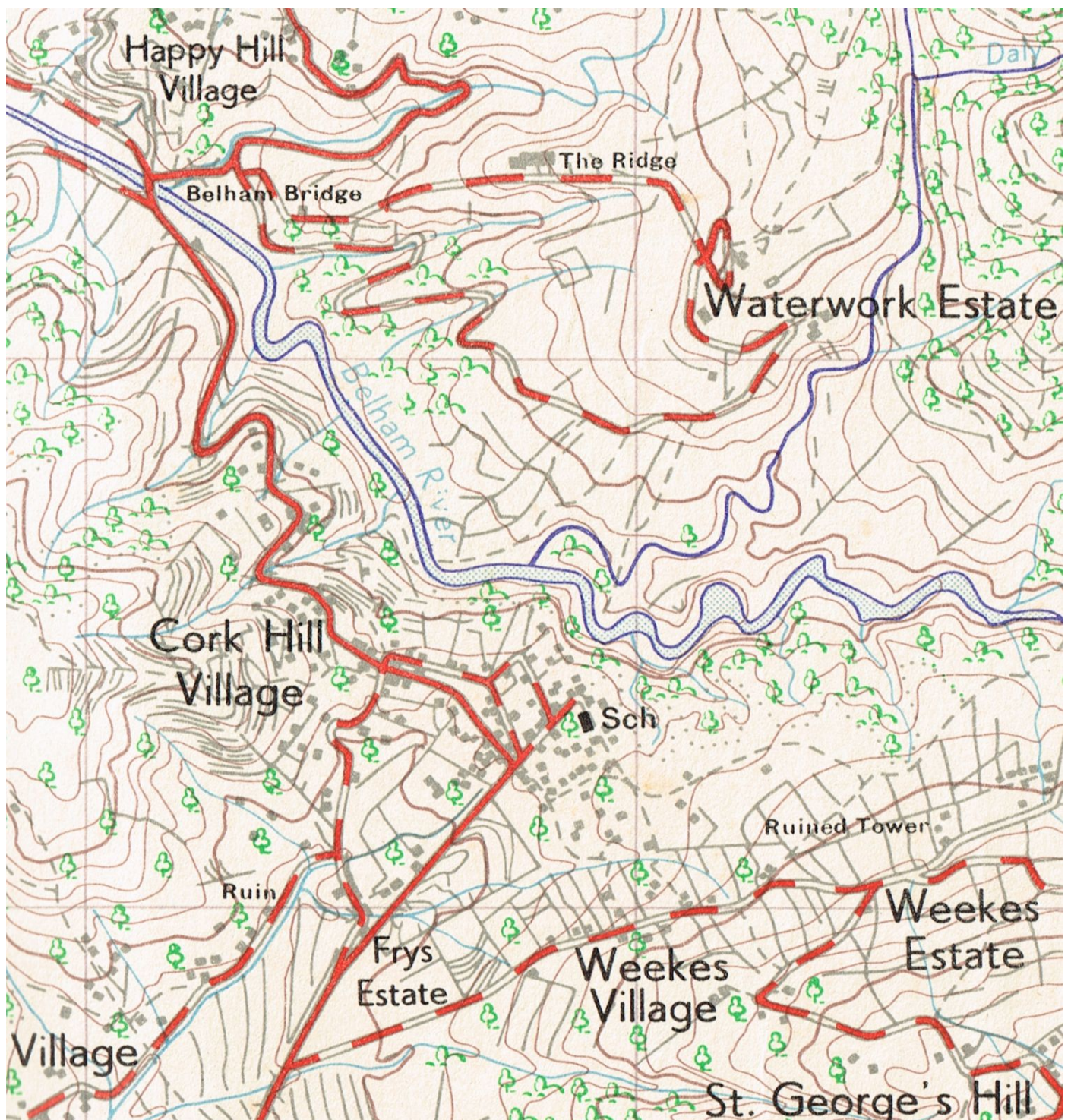


c.1900 estates details overlaid on 1867 map of Montserrat (Courtesy of Montserrat National Trust)



Detail from 1962 map of Montserrat (online [here](#))





Detail from 1965 map of Montserrat

It is interesting to note that there appear to be no records of re-registering of properties by trustees' handing title to the children of the original beneficiaries on their decease. In 1870 there was an attempt to regularise and re-register title deeds, but only the larger property owners appear in the record doing this. Perhaps smaller proprietors felt that possession was ten-tenths of the law; a recipe for future disputes.

#### Closing note

In a 22 January 2017 video ([here](#)) by the President of The Cork Hill Reunion Committee 2016 Miss Edith Delores Duberry, Weekes and St George's Hill are included in the Cork Hill area; its history as part of the community would have to be added later in an expanded version of this paper which includes the 20th century when the Registrar's records are available - there is no record of many small lot sales before. See the map below produced for the sale of Weekes estate in 1886, which shows "Settlements" to the east. Weekes/Weeks is a corruption of early proprietors named Wyke.

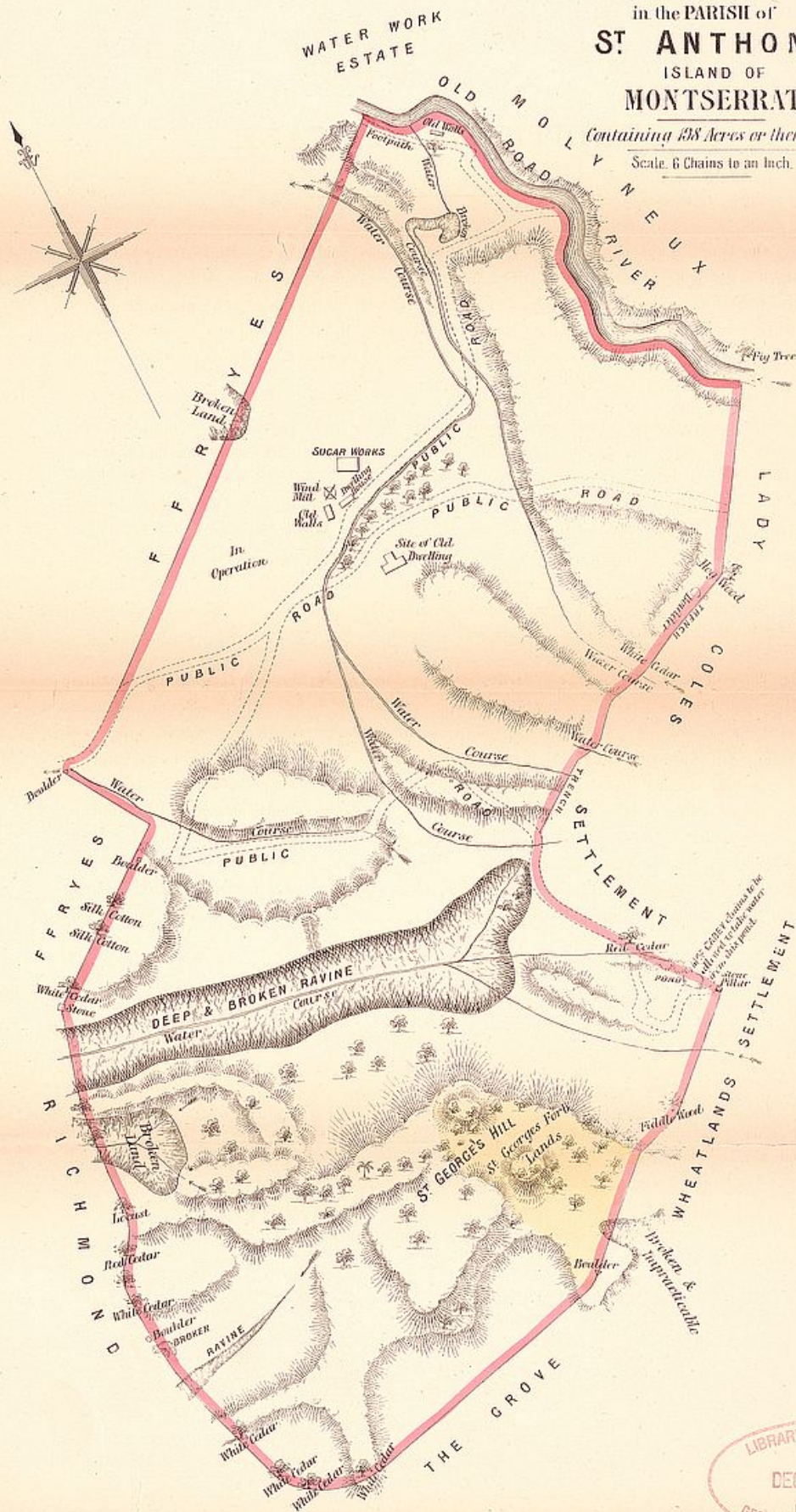


In the Court of the Commissioners for Sale of Incumbered  
 Estates in the West Indies (Montserrat.)  
 In the Matter of the Estate of K.P. Pencheon (N<sup>o</sup> 3)

**LOT 1**  
**Plan of**  
**WEEKS or RIVER HEAD ESTATE**  
 in the PARISH of  
**ST ANTHONY**  
 ISLAND OF  
**MONTserrat.**

Containing 38 Acres or thereabouts.

Scale 6 Chains to an Inch.



Credit: Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division

